



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deloitte education summit poses the \$11bn question

14 July 2008: How best to spend \$11billion, the Government's allocated spend for education, is one of the questions some 4,500 employees from professional services firm Deloitte are grappling with over the next fourteen days in an innovation summit dedicated to education.

In order to help cover the burning questions for some of Australia's 42 universities and its higher education facilities; to add to their own learning and professional development opportunities; and to grow Australia's knowledge economy in general, Deloitte has invited academics, politicians and leading educationalists to take part in the summit and act as catalysts to inspire the firm's thinking.

Deloitte Government Services leader, Rory O'Connor said, "This initiative is really timely for us given the opportunity for new ideas in the education sector, with forums like the 2020 and Davos Connection Future summits where Deloitte's leadership team was invited to play a prominent facilitating role, and with the \$11 billion in new Government investment, and parallel reviews of the Higher Education and Innovation sectors. This nationwide innovation Education Summit at Deloitte will be yet another contribution to the debate.

"As a firm we continue to attract more than our share of graduate applications and it is really exciting for us to hear the fresh perspectives our graduates are bringing to our breakthrough discussions from their experiences in the education sector. We are hoping our people will come up with some real breakthrough thinking about how Australia can move this vital sector well into the 21st Century and beyond.

"We value the collaboration with our partner universities around Australia and in particular the University of Sydney, for its generous contribution of leadership program places to go to the six best ideas from the Summit which is adding some competitive spice to our Innovation initiative."

In Sydney yesterday (Monday 14 July) Acting NSW Minister for Education & Training and Attorney General, Hon. John Hatzistergos, MLC, and Virginia Judge, MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Education & Training joined special guest, Dr Chris Sarra, Director of the Queensland University of Technology Indigenous Education Leadership Institute to set the scene for change.

Dr Sarra was also a recent participant at Kevin Rudd's 2020 Summit and is a national authority on closing the indigenous equality gap through education, skills and training. Beau Leese, the initiator of the Deloitte Summit also gave an insight into a major program of work Deloitte is undertaking with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory.

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John Azarias, Senior Partner at Deloitte and Chairman of the Deloitte Foundation also took the opportunity to give \$50,000 for educational initiatives across the country to not for profit educational establishments.

“The education summit is really engaging our people and testing their innovative thinking around an area they all know well – education – what works and what doesn’t, and where we could do better. We are delighted to be attracting up to 100 people at each of the many events we are holding throughout the country,” said Azarias. “Except of course in Alice Springs and Darwin where the firm isn’t quite that big!”

The sessions will promote Deloitte’s Innovation Zone – an online tool - as the vehicle to capture the ideas which the Education Summit team led by Manager Beau Leese hopes will pioneer new and exciting ways to further advance Australia’s education and knowledge sectors.

Activities at Deloitte offices around the country include:

Sydney

- **11 July:** Breakthrough ideas café
- **14 July:** Building Education and Opportunity in Indigenous Australia with Dr Chris Sarra, and Acting Minister for Education and Parliamentary Secretary
- **16 July:** Executive messages from Harvard University – Breakthrough ideas café
- **17 July:** A panel discussion with Deloitte Leadership Academy lead Tom Richardson and others
- **18 July:** Higher Education: challenge and opportunity with University of Sydney Professor’s Peter Wolnizer, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, and Chris Styles, Director, Management Education programs on the Higher Education sector and Universities as engines for collaboration, innovation and enterprise.

Brisbane

- **Friday 11:** Professor Sue Spence Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching (and acting DVC Academic) and other senior members of Griffith University Management Griffith breakfast
- **Friday 11:** Professor Paul Greenfield UQ Vice Chancellor, and Professor Deborah Terry, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Teaching and Learning and a selection of senior colleagues
- **16 July:** *How can Deloitte add value to the Education Sector?* Gerald Marion, Consulting

Melbourne

- **July 3:** Secretary for Dept of Education The Hon Tony Cook and others with Partner Duncan Buckeridge
- **July 10:** Breakthrough Café
- **July 16:** Beam in exec from Harvard University

Adelaide

- **11 July:** Keynote speaker Prof Johann De Vries, Dean of the School of Dentistry, The University of Adelaide along with Carnegie Mellon’s Prof. Jon Caulkins, Professor of Operations Research and Public Policy, Prof. Terry Buss, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Mr Hayden MacGinnes, Director of Programs. Also participating in the Education breakthrough ideas fest were Flinders Universitys Carolin Plewa PhD, Manager - Marketing & Strategy, Emma Beames,



Manager Legal Cranfield University, University of South Australia's Prof. Len Pullin, Head of School, the International Graduate School of Business and Adelaide Eastern Community Child Care Centre's Mr Peter Greed.

Darwin

- **8 and 17 July:** Presentation around higher education sector using input from Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to brainstorm ideas around building the market given the limited pool of students, the demographics of the student base and geographical issues such as remote delivery.

Hobart

- **21 July TBC:** Secretary of Education and Premier and Minister for Education David Bartlett to confirm attendance to discuss the education industry, universities and accessing cutting edge technology along with a roundtable discussion from a balanced gender mix of students from private and public schools from years 9-12 to gauge how they perceive the questions.

Perth

- **July 7:** Deputy Vice Chancellor Murdoch University– to present and challenge Deloitte thinkers with key questions

NB: See our media releases and research at www.deloitte.com.au

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